

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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February 27, 2013

Thomas Parsons, Volunteer President
Slabtown Rollers
tparsons5514@charter.net

Dear Mr. Parsons:

This is in response to your letter regarding the road conditions on Highway 1 north of Cambria, San Luis Obispo County. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is determined to reconcile our pavement management practices for acceptability among all highway users.

Our recent letter responding to a request by Senator Monning should answer most of your questions (attached). In addition, the UC Davis Pavement Research Center will be contacting local cyclists to participate in the Phase 1 testing.

I will continue to work through the office of 2nd District Supervisor Bruce Gibson for our continuing dialogue. Caltrans representatives will report on the progress and outcomes of our evaluation at meetings of the county's Bicycle Advisory Committee and, at the Supervisor's request, the North Coast Advisory Council.

For more information about Caltrans' pavement management program, please visit:
http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/maint/Pavement/Pavement_Program/index.html

Thank you for your interest in the State transportation system.

Sincerely,



TIMOTHY M. GUBBINS
District 5 Director

Attachment

cc 2nd District Supervisor Bruce Gibson
Ron De Carli, SLOCOG Executive Director
Josh Olejczak, Chair, San Luis Obispo County Bicycle Advisory Committee
Dan Rivoire, Executive Director, San Luis Obispo County Bicycle Coalition
Robert Fuller Davis, President, San Luis Obispo Bicycle Club

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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*Flex your power!
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February 26, 2013

The Honorable William W. Monning
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4066
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Monning:

Thank you for your letter. I appreciate your support in resolving the concerns expressed by bicyclists about the surface on Highway 1 north of Cambria in San Luis Obispo County. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) shares your determination on this issue.

While we undertake the efforts described below, please be assured that the highway remains safe for all modes of travel. Bicyclists should not be discouraged from riding this stretch of highway while this evaluation is underway, and organizers of cycling events should be encouraged to contact Caltrans about any specific concerns they may have for the success of upcoming rides.

I am pleased to report that Caltrans' work with the UC Davis Pavement Research Center is now underway and will be conducted in two phases:

- Phase 1 consists of researching known smoothing techniques for effectiveness (such as applying heavy rollers), conducting test bed trials and measuring roughness and bicycle ride quality of those smoothing techniques. It is anticipated that Phase 1 will be completed in May 2013.
- Phase 2 will explore cost effective preventative maintenance strategies that provide for a better bicycle ride quality. This will produce recommendations for the statewide pavement program. Phase 2 is expected to be completed in Fall 2013.

If the data analysis from Phase 1 demonstrates that there is a cost-effective strategy that improves bicycle ride quality and maintains highway integrity, Caltrans will develop an implementation plan for Highway 1.

Depending on the selected strategy, seasonal conditions will influence when follow-up actions could successfully be carried out. Implementing a strategy requiring significant construction activity would be subject to the constraints of seasonal temperatures and heavy tourist traffic between the Easter and Labor Day holidays. Fall would be the earliest timeframe to accomplish

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significant construction work, similar to when the existing chip seal was placed. A less-complex strategy such as heavy rolling would have fewer constraints and could occur sooner.

We will continue to keep you informed of our progress and outcomes of our evaluation. Please also be assured that Caltrans is committed to making positive changes to our pavement management practices to improve the ride quality for all users, including bicyclists.

Sincerely,



For

MALCOLM DOUGHERTY
Director



IN

Date: Feb. 19, 2013

To: Tim Gubbins, Director
Caltrans District 5
tim.gubbins@dot.ca.gov

From: Thomas Parsons, President
Slabtown Rollers
tparsons5514@charter.net

CC: Ron DeCarli, Executive Director
San Luis Obispo Council of Governments
RDeCarli@slocog.org

Bruce Gibson, 2nd District Supervisor
San Luis Obispo County
bgibson@co.slo.ca.us

Robert Davis, President
San Luis Obispo Bicycle Club
slobike@me.com

Dan Rivore
San Luis Obispo County Bicycle Coalition
dan@slobikelane.org

Subject: Meeting request to discuss timeline and progress milestones for UC Davis research project and Highway 1 chip seal remediation work

Dear Mr. Gubbins,

We have reviewed the Feb. 13 letter signed by SLOCOG President Frank Mecham to you, and your response to SLOCOG dated Feb. 14. We very much appreciate your attention to the concerns we raised at the Feb. 6 SLOCOG meeting, and we are heartened to know that Caltrans is committed to a collaborative effort to resolve the issues we have identified.

We're writing now to request a meeting with you and your staff, plus representatives from our partner organizations (SLO Bicycle Club, SLO County Bicycle Coalition), as soon as possible, so we can discuss the following items:

- The timeline for when the UC Davis research project will be conducted and concluded.
- The timeline for when the Highway 1 chip seal job will be remediated. (As you know, June 1 is a very important economic milestone for cycling events and the business community along the North Coast.)
- Significant milestones of progress that can be identified and specific dates of when the community can expect those milestones to be achieved.
- The budget process for how and when these actions will be funded.
- Any technical support Caltrans may need from the local cycling community.
- The communications process and protocols that are in place now, or need to be in place, in order to communicate to the cycling community and community at large about technical issues, plus the timeline and milestones that have been achieved as a measurement of progress.
- Any activities or actions Caltrans District 5 needs from the community to help expedite the process.
- Establish an ongoing forum.

It is assumed that researchers will be working on this project "over the next few months." However, our concern is that this is an open-ended statement without any firm due dates.

We agree with you that bicyclists should not be discouraged from the route while a solution is developed. They won't be if the road is fixed by June 1.

If we can narrow down the timeline to specific deliverable dates, and then establish a process for letting the community know what to expect, we will significantly reduce the uncertainty there is about this remediation work. Then the stakeholders will be able plan and communicate effectively with their clientele. This will reduce the level of concern coming from the affected communities.

We very much look forward to hearing back from you and meeting as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

s/Thomas Parsons
Volunteer President
Slabtown Rollers